

Let Us Always Pray and Not Faint

(Luke 18:1)

Introduction:

1. In this verse Luke explained the lesson that Jesus was teaching in the parable that follows (vs.2-8).
2. The lesson is: *"men ought always to pray, and not to faint."*
3. This is a lesson we need to learn from the year 2020.
4. As we approach the end of this difficult year, perhaps this is a good time for us to be reminded of some general principles that relate to prayer.
5. The first point we want to make is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE TEACHES US TO PRAY WHEN DIFFICULTIES ARISE
 - A. The woman in the parable (Luke 18:2-8) approached the judge because she had an *"adversary."*
 - B. Consider what God said to Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:12-14.
 - C. Bible characters who prayed when difficulties arose include:
 1. Ezra (Ezra 9:5)
 2. Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:1-4)
 3. Jonah (Jonah 1:17-2:1).
 - D. These verses and these Bible characters teach us to always pray and not faint.
 - E. Let us be reminded of . . .
- II. WHAT PRAYER IS
 - A. "Prayer" is the means that we have of talking to God.
 - B. (1 Timothy 2:1) There are various forms of communicating with God, including:
 1. prayers: addresses made to God
 2. supplications: asking God to supply needs (Matthew 6:11)
 3. intercessions: making petitions on behalf of others (James 5:16a)
 4. giving of thanks: expressions of gratitude.
 - C. With this reminder of what prayer is, we need to point out that . . .
- III. ALL 3 MEMBERS OF THE GODHEAD ARE INVOLVED IN PRAYER
 - A. Our prayers are to be addressed to the Father (Matthew 6:9).
 - B. Our prayers are to be addressed to the Father through the Son (John 16:23) who serves as our mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).
 - C. (Romans 8:26-27) The Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf when we pray.
- IV. THE BIBLE ASSURES US THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

- A. Jesus made this very clear in Matthew 7:7-8.
 - B. However, we must understand that God answers our prayers according to His will (1 John 5:14-15).
 - C. When we pray, God's answer may be:
 - 1. "yes" (James 5:17-18)
 - 2. "no" (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44)
 - 3. different from ours.
 - D. Because God may not answer our prayers according to the way we make our requests, we must pray "patiently" (Psalm 40:1) and "persistently" (Luke 18:1).
 - E. Because God answers our prayers, we ought to pray with the confidence expressed in Psalm 86:7.
 - F. The Scriptures affirm that God answers prayer; however, . . .
- V. WE MUST MEET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR PRAYERS TO BE ACCEPTABLE
- A. (Matthew 21:22) We must pray "believing" [in faith].
 - B. (John 15:7) We must abide in Christ, and His words must abide in us.
 - C. (James 4:3) We must pray with the proper motives.
 - D. We must be living "righteous" lives (James 5:16b).
 - E. We must be obedient to God's commandments (1 John 3:22).

Conclusion:

- 1. God's children are blessed to be able to talk to Him through prayer.
- 2. As we conclude this lesson, are you among those who can address God as "Father?"
- 3. We learn from Galatians 3:26-27 how to become His children.